

Message Text

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R 072255Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 026066

THE FOL TEL FROM ATHENS DATED FEB 1, 1974 TO SECSTATE
WASHDC IS REPTED:

QUOTE S E C R E T ATHENS 0707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GR VN KN

SUBJ: GREEK INQUIRY REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM
AND NORTH KOREA

REF: ATHENS 0801 8 FEB 1973

1. IN COURSE OF FEB 1 DISCUSSION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR
ON OTHER MATTERS (SEPTELS), AMBASSADOR PAPAIOANNOU,
CHIEF OF FIRST POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (COMMUNIST COUNTRIES),
MFA, ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POSITION
ON RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. CITING
EARLIER US POSITION (REFTEL), PAPAIOANNOU NOTED THAT
GREECE MIGHT VERY WELL BE LAST NATO COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH
RELATIONS WITH HANOI. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GREECE HAD
ONLY A FEW INSTANCES OF NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE DEALINGS
WITH NORTH VIETNAM, PAPAIOANNOU NEVERTHELESS

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OBSERVED THAT GREEK AMBASSADOR TO PEKING FEELS HE IS

"NOT A MEMBER OF THE CLUB" BECAUSE GREECE IS VIRTUALLY THE ONLY WESTERN COUNTRY REPRESENTED IN PEKING WHICH DOES NOT ALSO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH HANOI.

2. GREEK FLAG MERCHANT VESSELS TRAVEL RELATIVELY FREQUENTLY TO NORTH KOREA, PAPAIOANNOU CONTINUED, AND A STRONGER CASE COULD BE MADE FOR DESIRABILITY OF SOME OFFICIAL GREEK PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. HE ADDED NO GREEK INITIATIVE WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT PRESENT.

3. WE UNDERTOOK TO ASCERTAIN CURRENT US VIEW ON QUESTION OF NATO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM AND NORTH KOREA. PLEASE ADVISE. TASCA

UNQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

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